

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 941 - HB 1030

March 31, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Tennessee Election Day Registration Act* by authorizing any person eligible to vote in an election to register to vote or update a current registration during early voting or on election day. Requires the Secretary of State to prescribe the procedure and forms for a person to register to vote or update voter information during the early voting period.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,168,700/FY21-22
\$237,100/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –
\$237,100/FY21-22 and Every Four Years Thereafter*
\$474,100/FY22-23 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- One additional computer will be required for each election-day polling location. Such computers can be utilized at early voting locations without purchasing a computer specifically for the early voting location.
- There were 1,959 total polling locations within the state in the November 2020 election; 1,745 are election-day locations while the remaining 214 locations are early voting locations.
- Based on information provided by the Division of Elections, computers are estimated to cost \$663.75 each, for a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$1,158,244 (\$663.75 per computer x 1,745 election-day locations).
- Voter registration forms will be reprinted to reflect the voter registration deadline. Reprinting of forms will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures, in FY21-22, is estimated to be \$1,168,744 (\$1,158,244 computers + \$10,500 registration form reprinting).
- According to information provided by the Division of Elections, an additional election official would be required at each polling place to process voters seeking to register or update their personal information on election-day or during early voting and to cast a regular ballot on the same day.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-4-109, officers of elections, judges, machine operators, and inspectors shall be paid for their services on election-day a minimum of \$50 per day.

County legislative bodies are authorized to increase this compensation; however, it is unknown how many have elected to do so.

- The early voting period lasts for 14 days, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102, and early voting occurs no more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the day of the election.
- The proposed language will result in an increase in expenditures of \$237,050 [(\$50 compensation x 1,745 election-day polling locations) + (\$50 compensation x 214 early voting locations x 14 days of early voting)] per election cycle.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore, in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter, there will be an increase in state expenditures of \$237,050.
- In FY22-23 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$474,100 (\$237,050 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY21-22 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$237,050.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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